from discussion on stand of each country on multilateral trade and economic cooperation issues.

No specific Trade Agreements were concluded during these Talks.

Re-Opening of Stillwell road

2529. SHRI AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Assam has proposed to reopen the Stillwell Road inking Assam with Myanmar and China, which has been lying unused since World War II; and

(b) if so, the decision taken thereon, indicating the regulations to be enfoced with opening of the road?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The proposal has been made so that another border trade point can be established between India and Myanmar. The subject of additional border trade points has been discussed with the Government of Myanmar. The Government of Myanmar has agreed in principle to the opening of additional border trade points as may be notified by mutual agreement pending which, it has been decided to first ensure the smooth functioning of the Moreh-Tamu border trade point in the Manipur sector.

Third Country Mediation to Improve Indo-Pak Relations

2530. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to improve Indo-pak relation;

(b) whether some countries have offered their services to mediate between both the countries;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (d) Government desire to build a relationship of peace, friendship and cooperation with Pakistan. This was reiterated by Prime Minister during his landmark visit to Lahore in February 1999. The Lahore Declaration, the Memorandum of Understanding and the Joint Statement, which were issued during Prime Minister's visit, seek in their totality to build confidence and trust, put in place a stable and comprehensive structure of cooperation and address outstanding issues through a process of direct, bilateral and composite dialogue. There is no place in this process for any third-party involvement of any kind whatsoever. This view is known to the international community.

Indian people Settled in Kenya

2531. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian people settled in Kenya at present;

(b) Whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Economic Times on 27th January, 1999, under the heading 'Illegal immigrants fuel unrest against Kenya Indians';

(c) if so, the the details thereof and whether the matter was taken up with that Government for the protection of Indian settlers; and

(d) if so, with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) The total number of people of Indian origin settled in Kenya is estimated to be about 100,000. Out of these, approximately 10,000 are Indian passport holders.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The article carried reports of recent attacks on and arrest of some people of Indian origin in Kenya, The matter was suitably taken up with the Government of Kenya.

(d) The Government of Kenya has assured full protection to all people legally residing in the country including people of Indian origin. The detained Indian persons have since been released.